

Resolution of the Mid Illinois Medical District Commission

In Support of the Establishment of a 708 Mental Health Board for Sangamon County

WHEREAS, the Mid Illinois Medical District Commission ("Commission") is committed to promoting and advancing public health, including mental health, within the Counties of Cass, Christian, Logan, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon, and Scott; and

WHEREAS, mental health is a critical component of overall health and well-being, and access to mental health services is essential for the residents of Sangamon County; and

WHEREAS, the brutal murder of Sonya Massey was an excruciating reminder of the inadequacy of mental health infrastructure and need for related training and supports in our community; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a 708 Mental Health Board under the Illinois Community Mental Health Act (405 ILCS 20) provides an effective and accountable mechanism for the planning, funding, and delivery of mental health services within local communities; and

WHEREAS, a 708 Mental Health Board is empowered to devote a portion of local sales or property tax proceeds to funding critical mental health services, thereby ensuring sustainable and targeted financial resources to address these needs; and

WHEREAS, 70 of Illinois' 102 counties, including Macon, Christian, and Montgomery, have established similar bodies under the authority of the Illinois Community Mental Health Act; and

WHEREAS, Sangamon County health care, nonprofit, and law enforcement institutions face significant challenges in addressing mental health needs, including the availability of services, the growing demand for mental health support, and the necessity for coordinated care across various service providers; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a 708 Mental Health Board would enable Sangamon County to more effectively assess community mental health needs, allocate resources, and develop comprehensive strategies to address mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of such a board would contribute to the overall health and economic stability of the community by improving mental health outcomes, reducing the burden on emergency services, and enhancing the quality of life for all residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mid Illinois Medical District Commission hereby expresses its full support for the establishment of a 708 Mental Health Board for Sangamon County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission urges the Sangamon County Board, community leaders, and residents to support and advocate for the creation of a 708 Mental Health Board to ensure that essential mental health services are accessible, well-funded, and effectively managed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Sangamon County Board, the Massey Commission, the Sangamon County Public Health Department, and other relevant stakeholders to signify the Commission's endorsement of this important initiative.

**Adopted this 29th day of August, 2024
Mid Illinois Medical District Commission**